



SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS

Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians, 237 Coliseum Dr Macon, GA 31217
<http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/opticians> P: 478-207-2440 F: 866-888-7127

April 2010
Volume 2, Issue 2

Update from the Director

Randy Vaughn

The Professional Licensing Boards Division is committed to identifying and implementing efficiencies in every area possible. To achieve this, we are continuing to develop new online applications. In anticipation of spring graduations, we are currently working to ensure that additional types of license applications are available online. In addition to new online applications, we are in the process of upgrading our business software. The necessary upgrades will allow us to broaden our online services and increase our support for our applicants and licensees.

In March, Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp announced a multi-phase consolidation of the Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division of the Office of Secretary of State. This Division will be consolidated and moved to the Professional Licensing Boards Division in Macon. We will be

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Update from the Director	1
About the Board	1
2010 Meeting Dates	2
Board Members and Staff	2
Active Licensees and Expiration Dates	2
Actions Taken by the Board	2
License Renewal Process	3
Complaint Process Information	3-4
Frequently Asked Questions	4

working throughout the second quarter to complete this transition and will provide an update on the transition in the next newsletter.

The Secretary of State's office is committed to operating as efficiently as possible while providing excellent customer service to the citizens of the State of Georgia. We appreciate your confidence as we continue to improve our ability to serve and support you.

About the Board

The Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians consists of six members: five licensed dispensing opticians and one consumer member. Typically, the Board meets six times each year. Board meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive session, in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items, and applications are discussed.

Licensed opticians prepare and dispense lenses, spectacles, eyeglasses, contact lenses and optical devices as authorized by a written prescription from an optometrist or physician skilled in diseases of the eye. Dispensing opticians can be considered for licensure after meeting specific educational or work experience requirements and examination.

2010 Meeting Dates

May 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

July 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

September 22, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

November 10, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board Office in Macon.

Minutes from the Board meetings may be found on the Board's website at:

www.sos.ga.gov/plb/opticians

Board Members and Staff

Steve Sanford, Chair

Diane Drake, Vice-Chair

Glenn Morris

Dave Meldrum

Tom Schulz

Consumer Member – Vacant

Brig Zimmerman

Executive Director

Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians

Active Licensees

Dispensing Optician: 1,132

Dispensing Optician Apprentice: 643

Expiration Dates

Dispensing Optician: March 31 of odd numbered

"It is illegal to practice as a dispensing optician with an expired license."

Actions Taken by the Board

January: The Board approved the following applicant for licensure:

- Cheryl Lyn Rodgers, Stockbridge

The Board voted to elect the following officers for 2010–2011:

- Steve Sanford, Chair
- Diane Drake, Vice-Chair

The Board scheduled the following examination dates:

- March 2, 2010
- March 3, 2010
- August 17, 2010
- August 18, 2010

March: The following application was approved for licensure:

- Richard Sanders, Canton

The following application was approved for licensure by reinstatement:

- John Collins Reed, Athens

License Renewal Process

How do I renew my license?

You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website with a credit card. Click on the License Renewal icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted of a crime or received a board sanction since the last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether you are a U.S. citizen. Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.

The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested. A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee either by calling the Board office at 478-207-2440, or by submitting a written request.

Disciplinary Issues:

The Board addresses these issues on a case-by-case basis and applies sanctions to those who violate the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians Practice Act, Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees review all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession. These may be found on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/opticians.

All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians website.

Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43-29 or at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19, which can be found on the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians website.

Complaint Process Information

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians to regulate the licensing and practice of dispensing opticians. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43-29 is given to the Board whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

Complaint Form:

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted on-line at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

Investigations:

The Board gives serious consideration to all complaints. Further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board inspector or investigator for additional information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board. However, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

Notification Process:

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Board's website.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Board list of frequently asked questions is available on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.